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which several nominal varieties of this character are described ; descriptions of new Californian species belonging to the genera *Iris*, *Montia*, and *Newberrya* ; and a revision of the Manzanitas of Mt. Tamalpais, in which, because of the inadequacy of printed descriptions and other difficulties, three forms that seem undescribed are described and named as distinct species, while it is left to some future monographer of the genus to assign "definite limits, if that be possible in so polymorphous a genus, which continually suggests hybridization or a very active and unlimited tendency to vary."

T.

Pittonia. — In the seventeenth part of volume three of this work,¹ which appears at irregular intervals, Professor Greene writes on new species of *Eriogonum* ; the hop trefoils, for which he takes up Desvaux's name *Chrysaspis* ; a second list of corrections in nomenclature, in which he takes up Necker's name *Aragallus* for a large number of leguminous plants usually known as *Oxytropis* or *Spiesia* ; a nineteenth instalment of "New or Noteworthy Species," dealing likewise largely with Leguminosæ ; on the classification of asclepiads, in which the genus *Oxypteryx* is proposed for *Asclepias arenicola* Nash, and *Podostemma* for certain other species clustering about *Asclepias longicornu* Benth. ; the genus *Chamæcrista*, first established by Commelin in 1697, and of which, fortunately, considering their recent multiplication, no species are characterized as new, though nine are transferred from their familiar association with *Cassia* ; a sixth part of "Studies in the Compositæ" devoted to a discussion of the following new and restored genera : *Leucosyris*, *Leucelene*, and *Ionactis*, the latter based on *Aster linariifolius* L., *Chrysopsis alpina* Nutt., and *A. stenomerus* Gray ; a twentieth instalment of "New or Noteworthy Species," well distributed over the Polypetalæ and Gamopetalæ ; a second series of "Studies in the Cruciferae," in which the genus *Nesodraba* is proposed for several species of the Alaskan region, previously referred to *Draba* or *Cochlearia* ; and "Notes on Violets," accompanied by three plates illustrating *Viola emarginata*.

T.

Cell or Corpuscle? — Under this title, in *Natural Science* for December, 1897, Rudolf Beer discusses the much-vexed question of the terminology of those structural units which are yet organisms rather than the ultimate units of organs. Concluding that in vege-

¹ *Pittonia*. A series of botanical papers by Edward L. Greene. Washington, September–December, 1897. Price, 50 cts.

table anatomy either the wall or the living contents of the so-called cell must be renamed, he would retain the name cell for the former, designating the cytoplasm and nucleus as a corpuscle, believing that in this way botanical and zoological terminology may be brought into harmony most readily.

The Septate Leaves of Dicotyledonous Plants. — M. John Briquet, in the *Bulletin of the Botanical Laboratory of the University of Geneva*, for June, 1897, gives an interesting summary of his recent studies on certain of the plants possessing the foliar septa first recorded by Guettard in 1747, and for many monocotyledonous genera and the single dicotyledonous genus Villarsa, examined in detail by Duval-Jouve in 1873. To these M. Briquet now adds species of the umbelliferous genera *Ottoa*, *Crantzia*, and *Tiedemannia*. With Duval-Jouve, he concludes that the diaphragms or septa serve to increase considerably the solidity of construction of the leaf without interfering with the free circulation of gases in its intercellular spaces. While the majority of plants possessing these structures are aquatic or subaquatic, *Tiedemannia teretifolia* is shown to be amphibious and to possess admirable adaptations to existence during alternating periods of extreme wet and drought. T.

The Photosynthetic Organs of Asparagææ. — Though, as is too frequently the case with students of vegetable anatomy, Professor Reinke has no thought of a monograph of this interesting group, his recent study of the cladodia of *Asparagus*, *Ruscus*, *Danæ*, and *Semele*¹ contains much that is of interest to the systematist, and justifies the conclusion that these aberrant genera are really derivatives of the leafy Siliaceæ. T.

New Hardy Nymphæas. — In the *Revue Horticole*, of Paris, for Nov. 16, 1897, M. André describes three new hardy Nymphæas of the odorata type, — *N. gloriosa*, *N. Ellisiana*, and *N. odorata exquissita*, — which have recently originated as seedlings under the hands of M. Latour-Marliac, whose beautiful seedlings and hybrids of American pond lilies are now known wherever this attractive class of aquatics is cultivated. T.

Flora of Africa. — To the many recent publications on the African flora is now added a list in which the botanists of the Brussels Garden propose to publish rapidly the new species and interesting facts brought out in the examination of the collections they are now

¹ Reinke, Die Assimilationsorgane der Asparageen. Eine kritische Studie zur Entwicklungslehre. *Jahrbücher f. wiss. Bot.*, Bd. xxxi, Heft 2, 207-272, f. 26.